

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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O R 241633Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7672
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1089

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, US
SUBJECT: KYPRIANOU BLAMES U.S. FOR COUP, INVASION

1. IN INTERVIEW WITH FARIBORZ ATAPOUR OF IRANIAN TELEVISION,
PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU SAID FAULT FOR NOT PREVENTING 1974 COUP AGAINST
MAKARIOS AND SUBSEQUENT TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS LAY WITH
AMERICANS. TEXT OF INTERVIEW, WHICH APPARENTLY WAS HELD SOME-
TIME BEFORE APRIL 19, WAS RELEASED BY GOC PUBLIC INFORMATION
OFFICE APRIL 21 AND CONTAINED FOLLOWING PERTINENT QUOTE:

"QUESTION 16: NOW, MAY I GO BACK TO THE PROBLEM WITH TURKEY?
IT IS STRANGE TO FIND GREECE AND CYPRUS AND EVEN TURKEY
BLAMING AGAIN THE AMERICANS FOR EVERYTHING, AS IF THE UNITED
STATES AND NOT BRITAIN WAS THE GUARANTOR POWER?"

"ANSWER 16: I THINK THIS IS VERY CRUCIAL QUESTION AS FAR AS
THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED, I BELIEVE THE FAULT LIES IN
LACK OF ACTION ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES IN 1974 TO
PREVENT THE COUP. IF THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT ABLE TO PRE-
VENT THE COUP, IT WOULD (SIC) PREVENT THE FIRST INVASION AND,
IF UNABLE TO PREVENT THE FIRST INVASION, IT COULD CERTAINLY
PREVENT THE SECOND INVASION, AS I BELIEVE DR. KISSINGER HAS
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ADMITTED. THAT IS WHERE THE FAULT LIES WITH REGARD TO THE
AMERICANS. HOWEVER, WE ARE HAPPY WITH THE STAND OF THE CON-
GRESS UP TO NOW. AS REGARDS BRITAIN, I CERTAINLY BELIEVE THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE ACTED AT THE TIME AS A GUAR-
ANTOR POWER TO PREVENT THE INVASION OR RESTORE THE STATUS
ANTE (SIC) AND THE DISTURBED ORDER, PROTECTING THE INDE-
PENDENCE, THE SOVEREIGNTY AND THE CONSTITUTION OF CYPRUS."

2. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, THIS IS FIRST TIME KYPRIANOU, AT LEAST SINCE HE BECAME PRESIDENT, HAS PUBLICLY BLAMED U.S. FOR EVENTS OF 1974. IT COMES AT A PARTICULARLY DISTURBING TIME, WHEN POTENTIAL FOR INCREASING ANTI-AMERICANISM IS HIGH. WE BELIEVE PROMPT OBJECTION BY DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY MIGHT REDUCE CHANCES OF KYPRIANOU'S MAKING SUCH CHARGES IN FUTURE.

3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT CALL IN CYPRUS AMBASSADOR OR CHARGE' TO REGISTER CONCERN OVER KYPRIANOU'S ACCUSATION, BOTH ON BASIS THAT IT DOES NOT CORRESPOND WITH THE FACTS AND THAT IT CONTRIBUTES UNNECESSARILY TO THE RISK OF INCIDENTS OF ANTI-AMERICANISM IN CYPRUS. UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO CONTRARY I PLAN TO MAKE POINT TO PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU WHEN I CALL ON HIM AT 1000 HOURS APRIL 25.
STONE

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